

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 3-14 remain in the application, the claims having been editorially amended for clarity.

The editorial matters raised with respect to the Abstract and claims have been corrected by the amendments above.

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed and are further believed overcome by the amendments made to claim 1.

The present invention is directed to a novel resonator filter structure, wherein a slot is formed in a wall separating adjacent cavities and a coupling member extends in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the inner wall and is also in electrical contact with an edge of the slot. This structure is reflected in the language of claim 1. As shown in the figures of the present case, the “slot” is open toward the top surface of the cavities but not to the bottom, i.e., the vertical dimension of the slot is less than the distance between the cavity top and bottom walls, and this has been clarified by an amendment to claim 1. The claim has also been amended to clarify the direction of the plane to which the coupling means is perpendicular.

Liang et al discloses coupling through an aperture, but in all cases the aperture is a slot which extends the complete distance from top to bottom walls. There is nothing in Liang et al '033 or in any of the other cited art which would have led the ordinarily skilled artisan to reduce the vertical dimension of the slot.

Puurunen et al shows coupling strips such as 9 in Fig. 3, but does not teach a coupling element that extends in a direction perpendicular to the vertical plane defined by the inner wall.

Cameron et al teaches a coupling member that is disposed in a coupling aperture and at least a portion of the coupling member extends in a direction perpendicular to the vertical plane through the aperture, but the aperture is not a slot which extends to either the top or bottom wall.

None of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches a slot which extends all the way to the top or bottom of the inner wall, where the coupling means is perpendicular to a vertical plane defined by the inner wall, and the coupling means is in electrical contact with an edge of the slot. Thus, all claims patentably distinguish over the applied art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

An extension of time is respectfully requested, the required fee being separately authorized through the Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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